

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, February 29, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 2484, a bill to provide that land which is owned by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the state of Minnesota but which is not held in trust by the United States for the community may be leased or transferred by the community without further approval by the United States.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contacts are Lanette Keith (for federal costs), who can be reached at 226-2860, and Marjorie Miller (for the impact on state, local, and tribal governments), who can be reached at 225-3220.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON,
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

H.R. 2484—A bill to provide that land which is owned by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the state of Minnesota but which is not held in trust by the United States for the community may be leased or transferred by the community without further approval by the United States.

CBO estimates that implementing this bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because enactment of H.R. 2484 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 2484 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2484 would allow the Lower Sioux Indian Community to lease, sell, or convey any land held by the community that is not held in trust by the United States. Current law requires Congressional approval before tribes may convey land that is not held in trust.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Lanette J. Keith (for federal costs), who can be reached at 226-2860, and Marjorie Miller (for the impact on state, local, and tribal governments), who can be reached at 225-3220. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF CHICAGO CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (NHS) for its effort and success in rebuilding urban neighborhoods on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

NHS is a nonprofit neighborhood revitalization organization with programs organized around four major areas of activity: community development, neighborhood lending, real estate development and home ownership education.

NHS promotes community development through 10 neighborhood-based programs offering home ownership, lending and rehabilita-

tion services. Neighborhood Lending Services, the lending arm of NHS and an Illinois Residential Mortgage licensee, administers loan programs that finance home improvement, home safety repairs, purchase and home rehabilitation for low and moderate income families. The NHS Redevelopment Corporation buys and redevelops single and multifamily properties and builds new homes. Redevelopment activity is strategically targeted to support the work of neighborhood-based programs and to promote neighborhood development. NHS's NeighborWorks Home Ownership Center is an innovative approach to providing in one location all the services and training that customers need to shop for, purchase, rehabilitate, insure and maintain a home. NHS's Homebuyer Education and Landlord Training classes are offered at the Center several times per month in English and Spanish.

Since 1975, NHS has rehabilitated more than 20,000 units of affordable housing for Chicago, families, including 334 units of low-income rental housing owned and managed by the NHS Redevelopment Corporation. NHS has initiated more than 12,000 loans totaling nearly \$250 million to help individuals purchase or rehabilitate homes. NHS has also generated more than \$1 billion of investment in 19 Chicago neighborhoods and reclaimed 990 vacant and abandoned homes for occupancy by new homeowners.

NHS's efforts in community development, neighborhood lending, real estate development and home ownership education have improved Chicago and its neighborhoods for thousands of families.

I am very honored to commend NHS on its invaluable work. I have witnessed the vital difference NHS makes in our communities and I thank them for their work and commitment.

Once again, I congratulate Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago for its exceptional dedication improving Chicago's communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict in my Congressional District on Tuesday, February 29, I was not present for rollcall vote 26. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

TEXAS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is a special day in Texas because tomorrow, March 2, is the first Texas Independence Day of the new millennium. In 1836, 164 years ago today, the Republic of Texas was born.

Let me set the stage for what happened 163 years ago. On March 1, 1836, 54 delegates representing settlements across Texas gathered for the Convention of 1836 at the small farm village of Washington-on-the-Brazos.

From the beginning, it was an event marked by haste and urgency. Mexican forces under Santa Anna were closing in on the defenders of the Alamo. On March 2, the day after the opening of the convention, the delegates declared the independence of Texas from Mexico. Within days of that announcement, the Alamo would fall, the first in a chain of defeats for the small Texas Army, which would nevertheless emerge victorious at the battle of San Jacinto, 6 weeks later, on April 21.

Mr. Speaker, what were these brave Texans fighting for? Up to the point when they gathered at Washington-on-the-Brazos, it was simply to restore the Mexican Constitution of 1824, which had been suspended by Santa Anna.

On the night of March 1, however, a group of five men stayed up late into the night, drafting the document that would be approved the next day by the full convention. This document, which echoed the lines of its American counterpart, was the Texas Declaration of Independence.

It started off in much the same way, with the words, "When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people." It spoke of the numerous injustices inflicted upon the settlers of the state of Coahuila y Tejas: the elimination of the state's legislative body, the denial of religious freedom, the elimination of the civil justice system, and the confiscation of firearms being the most intolerable, particularly among Texans.

Finally, it ended with the declaration that, because of the injustice of Santa Anna's tyrannical government, Texans were severing their connection with the Mexican nation and declaring themselves "a free, sovereign, and independent republic . . . fully invested with all the rights and attributes" that belong to independent nations; and a declaration that they "fearlessly and confidently" committed their decision to "the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations."

Over the next two weeks, a constitution was drafted and an interim government was formed, despite daily reports from the front detailing the collapse of the Alamo and subsequent advance of the Mexican Army through Texas. On March 17, 1836, the government was forced to flee Washington-on-the-Brazos on the news of the advance of Santa Anna.

Just over a month later, however, independence would be secured in the form of a victory over that same army by Sam Houston, a delegate at the very convention, and his courageous fighters at the battle of San Jacinto.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind folks from Tennessee that Sam Houston served in this Congress from the State of Tennessee. I have at times told my friends from Tennessee "The best of Tennessee immigrated to Texas in the 1830's."

From that point on, Texas was firmly established in the community of nations; and for 10 years she stood as an independent nation, until President James K. Polk signed the treaty admitting Texas to the United States in 1845.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Congress and the whole country will join us in a day that in Texas we celebrate, our schoolchildren celebrate, Texas Independence Day.